



JULY No. 44

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE



AUTHORITY

Heart

THROBS

ANC
10c

"Bert had fallen in love with me...I was sure of it! We were meant for each other from the start! But one evening..."

BERT WITH RUTH LYNN! BUT THIS IS SO CRAZY! WHY HAS HE DONE THIS TO ME?

See-

MY LOVE
WENT AWOL

MY CHANGED
FIANCE

LIFELONG
SWEETHEART

I WAS A HATED
WOMAN





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HEART THROBS

WHAT COULD I DO WHEN THE BOY I LOVED AND WANTED TO MARRY
CAME HOME WITH A CHIP ON HIS SHOULDER? BITTERNESS FILLED THE
HEART OF...

MY Changed Fiancé



HEART THROBS

IT WAS OUR LAST NIGHT TOGETHER, IN A LITTLE WHILE STEVE WOULD BE GOING OVERSEAS, GOING FROM MY ARMS, LEAVING THEM EMPTY AND ACHING FOR HIM!

EVENING, STEVE... CAROL! GOIN' OUT FOR A LOOK AT THE MOON TOGETHER, EH?

WE'D BETTER! IT'LL BE A LONG TIME BEFORE WE DO THIS AGAIN!



THE TOWN FOLK ARE ROOTING FOR YOU, STEVE!

YOU COME BACK YOU HEAR? AND WHEN YOU DO WE'LL HAVE A REAL CELEBRATION!



YOU KNOW, HONEY, THEY'RE ONLY SMALL TOWN PEOPLE, BUT THEY SURE HAVE BIG HEARTS!

PEOPLE IN OUR TOWN LOVE YOU, STEVE-- AND SO DO I!



AND THEN WE WERE CLOSE TO EACH OTHER, AND I THRILLED AS ALWAYS TO THE PLEASURE OF HIS KISSES, THE MANLY STRENGTH OF HIS ARMS...

CAROL... HONEY!

OH, STEVE... STEVE... STEVE...



OH, DARLING, WHY DID WE WAIT SO LONG? WHY DIDN'T WE GET MARRIED?

WE WILL, HONEY, WHEN I GET BACK! THEN WE CAN START PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE--A HOME--CHILDREN!



OH, DARLING, DARLING! YOU WILL COME BACK TO ME! YOU WILL!

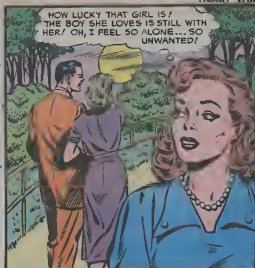
DON'T WORRY! NOTHING'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO OUR LOVE! I'LL JUST THINK OF YOU!



SOON AFTER, AN IMPERSONAL TROOP TRAIN TOOK HIM FROM ME, AND I WAS ALONE AND LOST IN MY OWN PRIVATE DARKENING WORLD!



DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE WITHOUT THE ONE YOU LOVE? DO YOU KNOW THE UTTER EMPTEINESS, THE YEARNING ACHES FOR HIS NEARNESS, HIS KISSES...



HOW LUCKY THAT GIRL IS! THE BOY SHE LOVES IS STILL WITH HER! OH, I FEEL SO ALONE... SO UNWANTED!



THAT WAS OUR FAVORITE PARK BENCH! ANOTHER GIRL AND BOY HAVE CLAIMED IT NOW! OH, STEVE... STEVE...

BUT THERE WERE TIMES STEVE SEEMED SO CLOSE TO ME... WHEN I READ AND REREAD HIS LETTERS...



CAROL, DARLING... IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU, BUT I STILL SEE YOUR SWEET FACE BEFORE ME...

"STEVE DARLING, I'VE JUST RECEIVED YOUR LAST LETTER AND ALMOST CRIED WITH HAPPINESS KNOWING YOU WERE THINKING OF ME! OH, MY DEAREST, HOW I WANT YOU BESIDE ME..."



BUT, AS TIME WENT BY, STEVE'S LETTERS BECAME SHORTER, MORE IMPERSONAL... AND FEWER!



I'M SO WORRIED! I HAVEN'T HAD A LETTER FROM STEVE FOR MONTHS!

HE'S PROBABLY IN TRANSIT! IT TAKES A LONG TIME FOR LETTERS TO BE REROUTED FROM THERE TO THE STATES!

CAROL, YOU LOOK SO PEAKED LATELY! WHY DON'T YOU GO OUT ON A DATE WITH OTHER FELLOWS? GEORGE KNOX PHONED AGAIN TODAY! HE'S A NICE BOY!

BUT, MOTHER, WOULDN'T THAT BE DISLOYAL TO STEVE?



IF YOU MAKE SURE IT REMAINS NO MORE THAN A HARMLESS DATE IT WOULDN'T BE DISLOYAL! I'M CERTAIN STEVE WOULDN'T EXPECT YOU TO ISOLATE YOURSELF TILL HE COMES BACK!

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT MOTHER!



MOTHER WAS RIGHT, OF COURSE! SEEING THAT MY DATES REMAINED IMPERSONAL WAS MY RESPONSIBILITY! SO I TOOK HER ADVICE AND WENT OUT WITH GEORGE KNOX...

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU LOOK SO RELAXED IN A LONG TIME CAROL!

YES, GEORGE... IT'S BEEN A VERY LONG TIME!



SOMETIMES I WISH THE ARMY HAD TAKEN ME SO I COULD HAVE A GIRL LIKE YOU WAITING FOR ME... LIKE YOU WAIT FOR STEVE!

YOU'RE NICE, GEORGE! THAT'S WHY I'VE OFTEN WONDERED WHY YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRL!



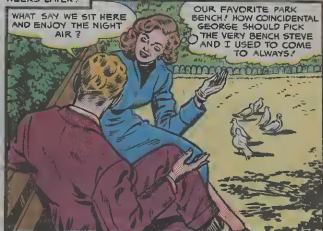
THERE'S ONLY ONE GIRL I EVER WANTED, BUT SOME OTHER LUCKY GUY GOT HER FIRST-- A GUY NAMED STEVE!

OH...GEORGE... I...I DIDN'T KNOW!

BUT GEORGE WAS A TRUE FRIEND TO STEVE, AND HE NEVER MADE ANY ADVANCES TOWARD ME...UNTIL ONE NIGHT SEVERAL WEEKS LATER!

WHAT SAY WE SIT HERE AND ENJOY THE NIGHT AIR?

OUR FAVORITE PARK BENCH! HOW COINCIDENTAL GEORGE SHOULD PICK THE VERY BENCH STEVE AND I USED TO COME TO ALWAYS!



IF I CLOSE MY EYES IT'S ALMOST AS IF STEVE WERE SITTING BESIDE ME... WHISPERING SWEET THRILLING WORDS AGAIN...

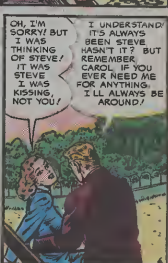
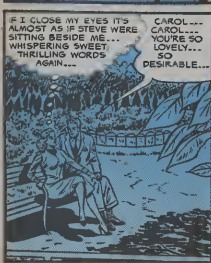
CAROL... CAROL... YOU'RE SO LOVELY... SO DESIRABLE...

OH CAROL... I LOVE YOU... I'LL NEVER LOVE ANY OTHER GIRL...

OH, STEVE... STEVE...

OH, I'M SORRY! BUT I WAS THINKING OF STEVE! IT WAS STEVE I WAS KISSING, NOT YOU!

I UNDERSTAND! IT'S ALWAYS BEEN STEVE. HASN'T IT? BUT REMEMBER, CAROL IF YOU EVER NEED ME FOR ANYTHING, I'LL ALWAYS BE AROUND!



HEART THROBS

SO, MY LIFE WENT ON, MONOTONOUS... DREARY... UNTIL THE LONG ANXIOUS WAIT WAS OVER! STEVE WAS COMING HOME!

OH, THANK HEAVEN!

HI, HONEY!



WELL, CAROL, HERE I AM! ARE YOU DISAPPOINTED? MAYBE YOU'RE NOT GLAD I'M BACK!

OH, STEVE, WILL YOU STOP TALKING AND KISS ME?



MIS HEAD BENT AND AS HIS LIPS FOUND MINE I FORGOT ALL MY YEARS OF LONGING! MY LIPS SHAPED THEMSELVES TO HIS AND I CLAIMED MY MAN AGAIN!

OH, MY DARLING... MY DARLING!



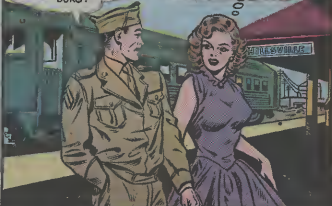
WELL, WELL! YOU KISSED ME ALMOST AS IF YOU MEANT IT!

BUT... OF COURSE I MEANT IT! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, STEVE? DON'T YOU KNOW I LOVE YOU?



WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT SOME OTHER TIME! RIGHT NOW I WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE OLD BURG!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND STEVE'S ATTITUDE! HIS EYES SEEM SO SO HARD... SO CYNICAL!

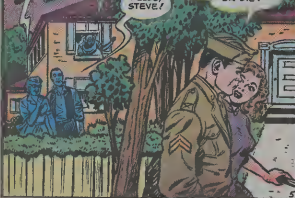


HI, STEVE!

WELCOME HOME, BOY!

BIG DEAL! CHEERS FOR THE HOMECOMING HERO! AS IF IT REALLY MATTERED TO THEM WHETHER I LIVE OR DIE!

HELLO, STEVE!



STEVE! HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT!

BECAUSE IT'S THE TRUTH! WHEN I'M A CIVILIAN AGAIN NOBODY'LL GIVE A HOOT ABOUT ME! THE CHEERING SECTION WON'T BE AROUND!



HEART THROBS



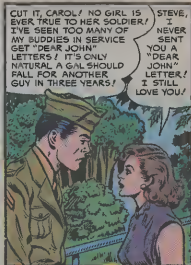
HMM! I SEE THEY'VE TORN DOWN THE OLD SHOE PLANT! PUT UP A FEW MODERN BUILDINGS, DIDN'T THEY?

YES! THE TOWN'S CHANGED A BIT IN THE THREE YEARS YOU WERE AWAY!



YEAH... EVERYTHING CHANGES AS TIME GOES BY! THAT'S THE LAW OF NATURE, I GUESS! EVEN YOU CHANGED!

I'VE GROWN OLDER, OF COURSE--BUT ONE THING HASN'T CHANGED! I STILL LOVE YOU, STEVE!



CUT IT, CAROL! NO GIRL IS EVER TRUE TO HER SOLDIER! I'VE SEEN TOO MANY OF MY BUDDIES IN SERVICE GET "DEAR JOHN" LETTERS! IT'S ONLY NATURAL A GAL SHOULD FALL FOR ANOTHER GUY IN THREE YEARS!

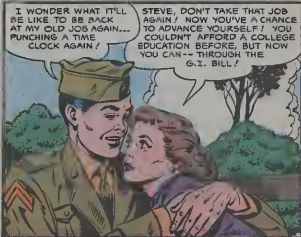
STEVE, I NEVER SENT YOU A "DEAR JOHN" LETTER! I STILL LOVE YOU!



I ADMIT I'VE BEEN OUT ON DATES, BUT THEY WERE HARMLESS--THEY DIDN'T MEAN A THING! PLEASE BELIEVE ME!

I'LL TRY, CAROL--A GUY'S GOT TO BELIEVE IN SOMETHING! HE'S GOT TO CLING TO ONE RAY OF TRUTH!

STEVE WAS DIFFERENT! HIS EYES HELD A RESTLESSNESS, A BITTERNESS THEY'D NEVER HAD BEFORE....



I WONDER WHAT IT'LL BE LIKE TO BE BACK AT MY OLD JOB AGAIN... PUNCHING A TIME CLOCK AGAIN!

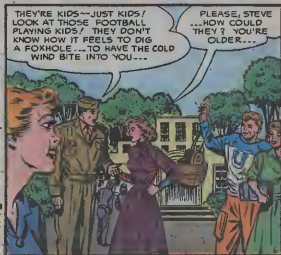
STEVE, DON'T TAKE THAT JOB AGAIN! NOW YOU'VE A CHANCE TO ADVANCE YOURSELF! YOU COULDN'T AFFORD A COLLEGE EDUCATION BEFORE, BUT NOW YOU CAN--THROUGH THE G.I. BILL!



COLLEGE? I LOST THREE YEARS OUT OF MY LIFE ALREADY! NOW YOU WANT ME TO GIVE UP MORE YEARS GOING TO SCHOOL?

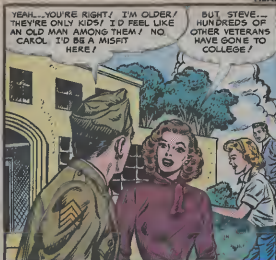
YES, STEVE--BECAUSE BY GOING TO COLLEGE YOU CAN ADVANCE QUICKLY IN A BUSINESS CAREER! IT'S YOUR CHANCE TO GET AHEAD! PLEASE, STEVE--DO IT FOR ME!

HE FINALLY AGREED, BUT NEXT DAY AS WE CROSSED THE CAMPUS TOWARD THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING...

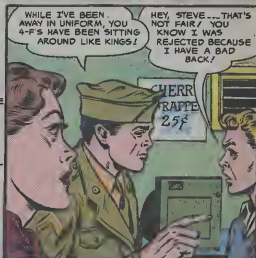


THEY'RE KIDS--JUST KIDS! LOOK AT THOSE FOOTBALL PLAYING KIDS! THEY DON'T KNOW HOW IT FEELS TO DIG A FOXHOLE...TO HAVE THE COLD WIND BITE INTO YOU...

PLEASE, STEVE...HOW COULD THEY? YOU'RE OLDER...



WE SPOKE NO MORE ABOUT IT AND AFTERWARD STEVE TOOK ME TO THE ICE CREAM PARLOR, ONCE A FAVORITE HANGOUT FOR OUR CROWD...



HEART THROBS

BUT MY WORDS HAD NO MEANING FOR STEVE! HIS FACE WAS SET IN HARD, SULLEN LINES AS WE WALKED HOMEWARD...

STEVE, I KNOW IT'S HARD FOR YOU TO GET READJUSTED, BUT AT LEAST GIVE YOURSELF A CHANCE! DON'T WITHDRAW FROM THE VERY PEOPLE WHO OFFER YOU HELP!



OH STEVE, JUST THE BOY WE WERE LOOKING FOR! TOWN'S GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE CELEBRATION FOR YOU TOMORROW! WE'D LIKE YOU TO MAKE A LITTLE SPEECH!



SPEECH, EH? WANT ME TO TELL YOU HOW GRATEFUL I AM TO BE BACK, EH? THEN YOU'LL PUT YOURSELVES ON THE BACK! BIG DEAL--BIG GESTURE--A DINNER FOR A HOME-coming HERO...



NO THANKS! SAVE YOUR DINNER FOR SOME OTHER SUCKER! I'M NOT FALLING FOR FANCY TALK!

OH, STEVE...HOW COULD YOU?



THEN SUDDENLY I WAS ANGRY WITH STEVE...AS ANGRY AS I'D EVER BEEN IN ALL MY LIFE...

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SPECIAL? WHO ARE YOU TO WALK AROUND WITH A CHIP ON YOUR SHOULDER? THOUSANDS OF OTHER VETS HAVE COME HOME AND FOUND A PLACE FOR THEMSELVES!



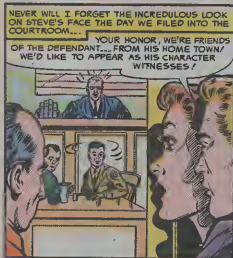
BUT HOT YOU, HOT THE GREAT STEVE FLETCHER! YOU CAN'T GO TO COLLEGE AS OTHER VETS HAVE! YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING BUT HURT THE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO HELP YOU!



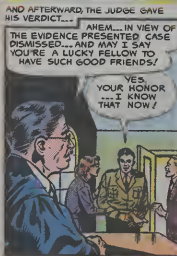
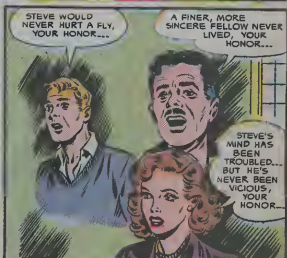
I'M GLAD YOU FEEL THAT WAY ABOUT ME! IT MAKES IT EASIER FOR ME TO LEAVE YOU AND THIS TOWN FOREVER! SO LONG!

OH, STEVE... STEVE! SOBE!





AND SO, ONE BY ONE, HIS FRIENDS, TOWNS-PEOPLE, ALL OF US TOLD THE JUDGE HOW WE'D KNOWN STEVE THROUGH THE YEARS...



HEART THROBS

BOB DROPPED ANDREA FOR ME THEN WENT BACK TO HER! HOW COULD I BELIEVE HIM WHEN HE RETURNED TO ME LATER PLEADING THAT HE WAS THROUGH WITH HER AND I WAS HIS...

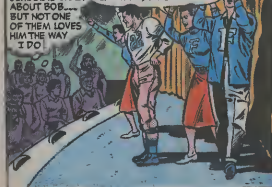
Lifelong Sweetheart



FOOTBALL STAR, PRESIDENT OF THE SENIOR CLASS....NO WONDER EVERYBODY IDOLIZED BOB AUSTIN!

I KNOW NEARLY EVERY GIRL IN SCHOOL IS CRAZY ABOUT BOB.... BUT NOT ONE OF THEM LOVES HIM THE WAY I DO!

LET'S HAVE IT NOW, EVERYBODY! A BIG LOCOMOTIVE FOR TEAM CAPTAIN, BOB AUSTIN!



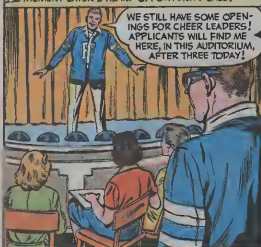
I WAS SURE THAT EVEN ANDREA COLLINS, BOB'S STEADY DATE, COULDN'T CARE FOR HIM AS I DID!

WHAT'S THE USE?

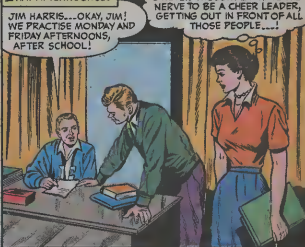
SHE ACTS AS IF SHE OWNS HIM.... AND HE LOVES IT!



A MOMENT LATER I HEARD OPPORTUNITY CALL!



THAT AFTERNOON...



MONDAY AND FRIDAY AFTERNOONS, VERA! SEE YOU THEN!

IT'S WORTH ANYTHING TO GET BOB TO NOTICE ME! HE'LL HAVE TO SEE ME THERE DURING THE GAMES!



TWO SATURDAYS LATER...

FERNDALE 15
WESTFORD 12

QUARTER +



I COULDN'T RESIST MY OWN IMPULSIVE GESTURE...

WELL, I NEVER EXPECTED THIS REWARD FOR A TOUCH-DOWN!

YOU WERE WONDERFUL, BOB!



I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOME FAST EXPLAINING TO MY GIRL FRIEND ABOUT THAT KISS.

I'M SORRY JUST TELL HER I WAS CARRIED AWAY BY THE EXCITEMENT OF THE MOMENT.



I'VE MADE A FOOL OF HIM... AND MYSELF!



HEART THROBS

JUST A FEW DAYS LATER, THE WHOLE STUDENT BODY WAS BUZZING WITH NEWS...

I WAS THERE AT THE TIME, SO I KNOW! ANDREA TOLD BOB SHE WAS THROUGH WITH HIM FOR GOOD! HE JUST TURNED AND WALKED AWAY WITHOUT A WORD!

NOT THAT BOB WOULD'VE NOTICED ME ANYHOW...I DON'T STAND A CHANCE NOW, NOT AFTER KISSING HIM THERE, IN FRONT OF EVERYBODY!



MAY I TALK TO YOU A MINUTE, VERA?

I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT INCIDENT AFTER THE GAME! I HOPE I HADN'T EMBARRASSED YOU!



WHAT...? OH, YOU MEAN THAT KISS! OF COURSE NOT, HONEY! I JUST WANT TO ASK YOU IF YOU'D LIKE TO GO DANCING WITH ME THIS COMING SATURDAY NIGHT!

I'D LOVE TO, BOB!



I KNOW I'M GETTING HIM ON THE REBOUND, BUT I DON'T CARE! I'VE GOT HIM, THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS!



SATURDAY NIGHT SAW THE BEGINNING OF MY DREAMS' FULFILMENT...

YOU AND I ARE GOING TO SEE A LOT OF EACH OTHER FROM NOW ON, HONEY! IF YOU DON'T MIND, THAT IS...

MIND! I'M HAVING A WONDERFUL TIME BOB... WITH YOU!



THAT NIGHT ENDED PERFECTLY!

SEE YOU TOMORROW, VERA?

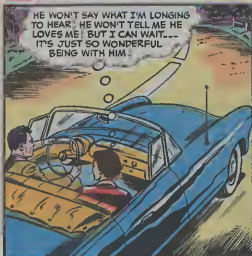
TOMORROW, BOB... OR ANY OTHER TIME YOU SAY.



MAYBE BOB THINKS I'M THROWING MYSELF AT HIM, BUT I CAN'T HELP IT! I LOVE HIM SO!



HEART THROBS



HEART THROBS

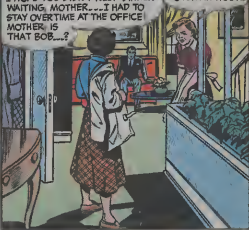
I JUST ABOUT FORGOT BOB AFTER GRADUATION! I JUST HAD TO! BUT SOMETIMES I'D SEE HIM WITH ANDREA, AND MY HEART WOULD BREAK ALL OVER AGAIN!



THEN, ONE EVENING....

I HOPE YOU DIDN'T KEEP DINNER WAITING, MOTHER.... I HAD TO STAY OVER TIME AT THE OFFICE. MOTHER, IS THAT BOB...?

YES, DEAR, HE'S BEEN WAITING OVER AN HOUR!



I WAS A HEEL ABOUT THE PROM, VERA! BUT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A CHUMP WHERE ANDREA WAS CONCERNED!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, BOB! THE PROM'S GONE AND FORGOTTEN NOW!



I'VE BROKEN UP WITH ANDREA FOR GOOD THIS TIME, HONEY. IF YOU CAN FORGET THE PAST, WELL, MAYBE YOU'D GO OUT WITH ME AGAIN.

THE ONLY THING I CAN'T FORGET IS HOW MUCH YOU MEAN TO ME, DEAR.



MY LOVEDREAMS WERE RE-BORN THAT NIGHT! BOB DATED ME STEADILY DURING THE NEXT TWO MONTHS....

THIS IS FOR LETTING ME FALL BEFORE!

I GIVE UP! I SURRENDER!



OH, SWEETHEART, I LOVE YOU!

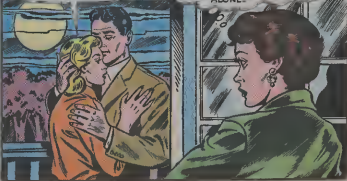
I'VE WAITED SO LONG TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT, BOB.



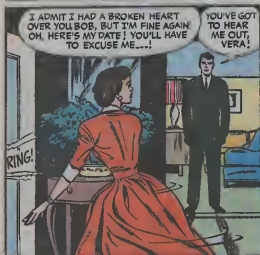
MY DREAMS CRUMPLED TO DUST ONE NIGHT AT A DANCE BOB TOOK ME TO!

I'M SORRY FOR THE THINGS I SAID, BOB! BUT I KNEW YOU'D COME BACK TO ME... WE'RE MEANT FOR EACH OTHER!

THAT'S WHY HE WAS GLAD WHEN ANOTHER FELLOW CUT IN! HE KNEW ANDREA WAS HERE... COULDN'T WAIT TO SEE HER ALONE!



HEART THROBS



MY HEART CRIED AS I WALKED THROUGH THE TOWN I WANTED TO LOVE! THE EYES OF THE CITIZENS BURNED THROUGH ME... THEIR SILENT WRATH DESTROYING ANY ROMANCE I MIGHT HAVE!

I Was A Hated Woman



MY HEART SANG AS THE BUS ROLLED ALONG! I WAS HEADED TOWARD A NEW TOWN AND A FRESH, NEW LIFE!

I'M ON MY OWN AT LAST... A WONDERFUL JOB IN A TOWN I'VE NEVER SEEN! I WONDER WHAT LANSDALE WILL BE LIKE?



ON THE LAST STOP BEFORE ENTERING LANSDALE RUSS CHARTERIS GOT ON! MY HEART SKIPPED A BEAT AS...

PARDON ME! BUT IS THIS SEAT AVAILABLE?

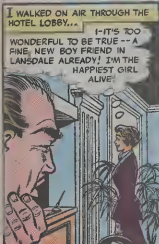
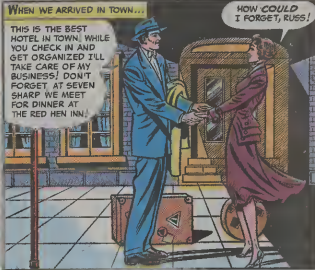
WHY YES IT IS!

HE'S TERRIBLY HANDSOME! I WONDER IF HE'S A RESIDENT OF LANSDALE?

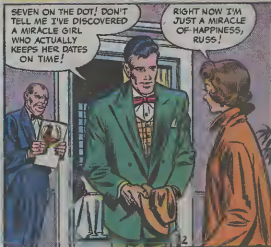
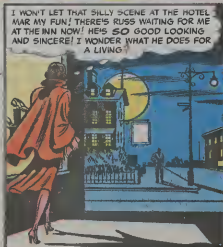


HEART THROBS

A WARM FRIEND-
SHIP QUICKLY
SPRANG UP
BETWEEN
RUSS AND ME!
AND MY HAPPY-
NESS SEEMED
COMPLETE
WHEN I LEARNED
RUSS WAS A
RECENT ARRIVAL
IN LANSDALE
HIMSELF...



AT FIRST, I WAS HURT AND ANGRY AT THE RUDE GREETING! BUT THEN MY HAPPY HEART ACCEPTED IT AS A TERRIBLE ERROR AND I CHECKED IN AT A ROOMING HOUSE NEARBY! LATER...



BUT RIGHT THEN AND THERE MY THRILLING NEW HAPPINESS
BEGAN TO TUMBLE...

SORRY, SIR, I CAN'T SEAT
YOU! ALL
FILLED UP!

WHAT ON
EARTH DO
YOU
MEAN?

THIS IS THE *SECOND*
TIME I'VE BEEN INSULTED
IN THIS FASHION, I
INSIST YOU EXPLAIN
YOUR ACTIONS

MISS ESTERBROOK I'M SURE
YOU'RE NOT ENTITLED TO ANY
MORE EXPLANATION THEN YOU
GAVE MR. LARRY TRAVERS.
GOOD EVENING!

MISS ESTERBROOK! GOOD HEAVENS, RUSS! THAT'S NOT MY NAME! I'M WENDY EVANS... JUST AS I TOLD YOU!

WELL, ER, PERHAPS
WE'D BETTER GO!

R-RUSS, SOMETHING STRANGE
AND TERRIBLE IS HAPPENING
TO ME! WHAT CAN IT ALL MEAN?
WHY DO THEY TREAT ME LIKE...
LIKE AN OUTLAW? **WHY?**

WELL, I GUESS
IT COULD BE
SOME SORT OF
CRAZY MISTAKE.
C'MON, WE'LL
DINE ELSE-
WHERE!

BUT IN THE DAYS TO FOLLOW THE SHOCKING TREATMENT OF THE TOWNSFOLK TOWARDS ME INCREASED! NO ONE, NOT EVEN RUSS, BELIEVED MY DECLARATIONS OF INNOCENCE...

PLEASE, CLERK!
WE'VE BEEN
WAITING QUITE
SOME TIME!

HUMPH! I DON'T
HAVE TO JUMP AT
YOUR COMMANDS--
I'M NOT LARRY
TRAVERS!

SORRY! ALL SEATS
ARE SOLD OUT FOR
THIS PERFORMANCE,
MISS ESTERBROOK!

I'M NOT MISS
ESTERBROOK
AND YOU DO
HAVE SEATS
LEFT! I
INQUIRED
BY PHONE!

I'VE HAD ENOUGH,
WENDY...OR CLAIRE...
OR WHOEVER YOU
REALLY ARE!
LOOKS LIKE I
GOT MIXED UP
WITH THE
WRONG
GIRL!

PLEASE, RUSS,
YOU MUST
BELIEVE ME!
I'VE NEVER
HEARD OF CLAIRE
ESTERBROOK...
A-AND I DON'T
KNOW A LARRY
TRAVERS!

PLAYH

HEART THROBS

EVEN RUSS DOESN'T BELIEVE ME! I--I'VE LOST HIM! MY LIFE IN LANSDALE HAS TURNED INTO A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE!
SOB! SOB!



I--I MUST GET OUT OUT OF THIS TOWN AT ONCE! I CAN'T BEAR IT ANY LONGER! SOB!

CLAIRE! SO YOU'VE COME BACK TO LANSDALE! I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU!



IN SPITE OF EVERY MEAN TRICK YOU PLAYED, CLAIRE, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO RETURN MY ENGAGEMENT RING! KEEP IT AS A TOKEN OF THE LOVE YOU SHATTERED WITH PETER SIMMS!

WHA...?

SO! CLAIRE ESTERBROOK WAS ENGAGED TO THIS MAN AND HE'S MISTAKEN ME FOR HER ALSO!

WHEN I FOUND CLAIRE HAD BROKEN HER ENGAGEMENT TO PETER SIMMS I MADE A DARING DECISION...

THIS IS MY CHANCE TO STRAIGHTEN THIS MESS OUT! I'LL POSE AS CLAIRE AND ASK HIM TO ACCEPT ME BACK! THAT WAY I'LL DISCOVER JUST WHY EVERYONE HATES HER SO!

PERHAPS IT WAS SELFISH OF ME BUT SOMEHOW I HAD TO CLEAR MYSELF WITH THE TOWNSFOLK!

I MADE SUCH A TERRIBLE MISTAKE, PETER! I KNOW NOW I STILL LOVE YOU! WON'T YOU TAKE ME BACK?

WHAT! AFTER ALL YOU'VE DONE TO ME... TO EVERYONE!! YOU'RE A STRANGE GIRL, CLAIRE!



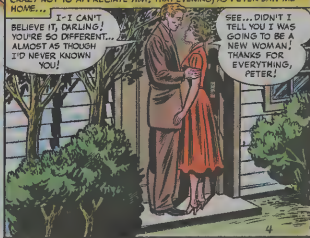
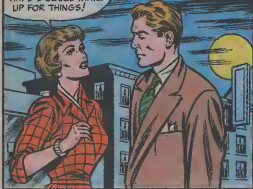
BUT I DO SO WANT TO START AGAIN...FROM THE START! I'VE BEEN SO CRUEL AND THOUGHTLESS...WITH YOU BESIDE ME PERHAPS I COULD MAKE UP FOR THINGS!

IF YOU ONLY MEAN THAT, CLAIRE! PERHAPS I'M A CHUMP... BUT I DO LOVE YOU! ALL RIGHT...WE'LL TRY AGAIN!

PETER SIMMS WAS A KIND, GENTLE MAN! CLAIRE MUST HAVE BEEN CRAZY NOT TO APPRECIATE HIM! THAT EVENING, AS PETER SAW ME HOME...

I--I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, DARLING! YOU'RE SO DIFFERENT... ALMOST AS THOUGH I'D NEVER KNOWN YOU!

SEE... DIDN'T I TELL YOU I WAS GOING TO BE A NEW WOMAN! THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, PETER!



AS HE
SWEEPED
ME INTO
HIS
STRONG
ARMS
I WAS
ASHAMED
OF MYSELF!

CLAIRE HAS
CHANGED...FOR
THE BETTER!

THIS
ISN'T FAIR TO HIM... YET
EVEN IF I DID TELL HIM THE
TRUTH HE WOULDN'T
BELIEVE ME!

A MAN NAMED LARRY TRAVERS SEEMED TO BE THE KEY TO
THE TOWN'S HATRED AGAINST CLAIRE! NEXT MORNING...

I'M LOOKING FOR
LARRY TRAVERS...
THIS IS THE ADDRESS
LISTED IN THE PHONE
BOOK! IS HE HOME?

YOU'VE GOT A SHORT MEMORY,
MISS ESTERBROOK! HE DID
LIVE HERE --UNTIL HE
LEFT TOWN
ON ACCOUNT OF YOU
A BROKEN MAN!

ROOMS

THEN THAT'S WHY THEY
HATED HER... CLAIRE DROVE
LARRY TRAVERS TO LEAVE!
I-I MUST LEARN EVERYTHING
POSSIBLE...

HUMPH! GUESS
YOU CAN'T HURT
HIM NONE NOW!
STEP INSIDE,
DEARY...

O-O OF COURSE! LARRY WAS
KEEPING SOME THINGS FOR
ME... COULD I LOOK IN
HIS ROOM?

IN LARRY TRAVERS' ROOM I CAME FACE TO FACE WITH THE GIRL
I'D GROWN TO HATE...

I'LL THANK YOU TO PICK
YOUR THINGS UP AND LEAVE!

GOOD GRIEF! NO WONDER
THEY'VE MISTAKEN ME FOR
CLAIRE! SHE'S THE IMAGE
OF ME!

I'LL JUST TAKE
MY PHOTOGRAPH!
THANK YOU VERY
MUCH, MRS...

THAT EVENING I PLANNED TO CONFESS
MY LIVING LIE TO PETER, BUT SOMEHOW,
I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO SPEAK
THE TRUTH!

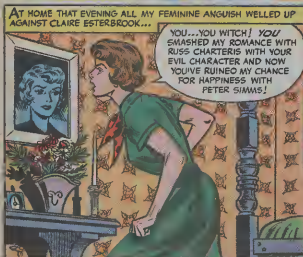
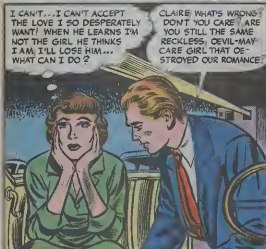
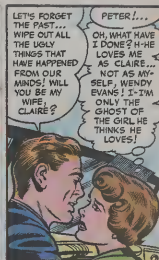
PETER! THERE'S
SOMETHING I
MUST TELL YOU!
I'M NOT...

SAY... WHY SO
DOWNCAST, HONEY?
C'MON... WHAT'S
WRONG?

N-NO THING...
I GUESS... I'LL
TELL YOU
ABOUT IT...
LATER!

THAT'S MORE LIKE
IT! THEY'VE A SWELL
SHOW AT THE DRIVE
IN THEATER TONIGHT!

HEART THROBS



HEART THROBS

MY TREMBLING FINGERS SNATCHED UP THE PAPER THAT HAD FLUTTERED FROM THE PICTURE FRAME! SUDDENLY, MY HEART STOOD STILL...

GOOD HEAVENS! T-THIS EXPLAINS IT ALL! CLAIRE MAY HAVE BEEN FOOLISH AND SELF-CENTERED BUT SHE'S NOT TO BLAME FOR EVERYTHING!



I HURRIED TO PETER'S HOUSE...

I MAY BE LOVED ONLY AS ANOTHER WOMAN, BUT BEFORE I LEAVE LANSDALE I'LL PROVE THEY WERE WRONG IN HATING HER SO! E-EVEN IF IT MEANS PETER WILL TRULY LOVE HER NOW!



CLAIRE! I WAS JUST GOING TO SEE YOU...

I'M NOT CLAIRE! READ THIS NOTE, PETER! IT WAS WRITTEN BY LARRY TRAVERS--THE GIRL YOU ACTUALLY LOVE WAS NOT ALL BAD!



DARLING CLAIRE: FORGIVE ME FOR TAKING THIS TERRIBLE WAY OUT! THE DOCTOR HAS GIVEN ME BUT SHORT WEEKS TO LIVE IF I DON'T LEAVE FOR A WARMER CLIMATE AT ONCE! I HAD TO BREAK WITH YOU IN THIS HEARTLESS WAY TO AVOID LETTING MY FOLKS KNOW OF MY ILLNESS UNTIL I RECOVER! SORRY, LARRY

GREAT SCOTT! THEN LARRY DIDN'T LEAVE TOWN BECAUSE OF HIS BROKEN ROMANCE; IT WAS BECAUSE OF ILL HEALTH!



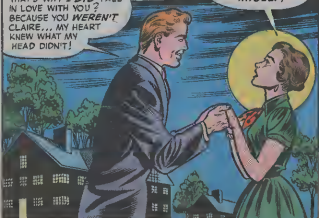
YES, PETER! Y-YOU CAN GO BACK NOW-- BACK TO THE GIRL YOU REALLY LOVE, CLAIRE ESTERBROOK!

HOLD ON, YOU LOVABLE LITTLE FOOL!



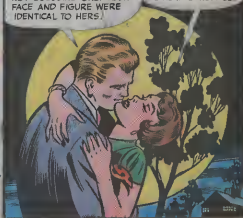
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT CLAIRE BECAUSE SHE JUST TELEPHONED ME FOR MONEY FROM NEW YORK CITY! DON'T YOU SEE-- THAT'S WHY I DID FALL IN LOVE WITH YOU? BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T CLAIRE... MY HEART KNEW WHAT MY HEAD DIDN'T!

PETER! YOU WERE COMING TO FIND ME! YOU LOVE ME FOR MYSELF!



OF COURSE, I DO, MISS WHO-EVER-YOU-ARE! I WAS A COMPLETE FOOL FOR NOT GUESSING ONLY YOUR FACE AND FIGURE WERE IDENTICAL TO HERS!

PETER...MY NAME IS WENDY. WENDY EVANS, THE HAPPIEST GIRL IN LANSDALE!



HOW TO GROW LONG BEAUTIFUL NAILS IN 7 MINUTES!

SCIENTIFIC **NEW** NATURAL NAIL FORMULA BUILDS OUT SHORT
NAILS! Not a Polish. Not a "false", but a treatment to LENGTHEN
NAILS! Repairs torn nails... Smooths jagged edges!



BEFORE

AFTER

Upset because your nails just won't grow? Embarrassed to show your hands in public because of short, broken-off nails? Now, amazing new NAIL-GRO gives you the long, beautiful, tapering nails you always wanted. NAIL-GRO is a liquid plastic material applied directly to fingernails just like nail polish. Discovered by medical science, it sets to a clear, hard surface—looks and feels like your regular nail...

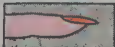
and grows with your regular nail. It can be cut, filed, and polished—yet it's so strong it can't break or tear... even when you're cleaning house, washing dishes, doing laundry, playing the piano, or typing. What's more, these nails are so sturdy, nail-biters can't chew them. Colored nail polishes stay on NAIL-GRO twice as long as they do on regular nails... and nail polish remover takes polish off faster and easier!



Broken or short nails



Place nail form under nail and apply powder with wet brush just like nail polish.



When nail hardens, remove nail-form. Nail is now ready for filing and polishing; looks and feels completely real.

- Completely harmless—the same material used by practicing dentists and surgeons.
- Builds nails to the length and shape you want.
- Creates everlasting nails that look, act and feel like regular nails.
- Not a polish or a "false"—but a plastic nail you brush on.
- One application lasts indefinitely.
- Adheres to your nail and grows out with your nail.
- Stronger than your regular nail! Can't break or tear.
- Smooths torn nails—preventing runs in stockings and snags in clothing.
- Ideal for problem children who are nail-biters.

INTRODUCTORY OFFER!

ENOUGH
FOR
50 NAILS!

2.98

A
FULL
YEAR'S
SUPPLY

A professional NAIL-GRO treatment in a beauty salon would cost you \$16.50! And the complete NAIL-GRO kit is sold at all leading department stores for \$5. But right now—during this special introductory offer—NAIL-GRO is yours for only \$2.98! You get enough for 50 nails—a full year's supply!

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ACCEPT FREE TRIAL OFFER

Send no money. Give NAIL-GRO a thorough free trial in your own home. You'll be delighted with its spectacular results... with the lovely, long, tapering nails it builds. Order today on money-back guarantee. Mail coupon to NAIL-GRO, 389 Lexington Avenue, New York City, New York.

NAIL-GRO CO., 31 West 47th Street, New York 36, N. Y., Dept. GR-4
Yes, I want the long beautiful nails NAIL-GRO can give me. Rush me NAIL-GRO kits at \$2.98 each, plus 30¢ Fed. Tax & C.O.D. postage charges. When NAIL-GRO arrives, I will pay postman the low introductory price. BUT I am not buying—I am simply trying. If NAIL-GRO doesn't give me lovely, long, tapering nails after one application—if it does not do all you claim, I will return unused portion within 10 days for full purchase price refund.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....Zone.....State.....

☐ CHECK HERE TO SAVE MONEY. Enclose payment with order and WE pay all postage and shipping charges. (Add 30¢ Fed. Tax for each kit). Same money-back guarantee, of course.

Advice on Love Problems

By MARILYN MINTON

Dear Marilyn Minton:

I have read your helpful advice to others and so I am writing to you about my problem. I have been going with a boy from school for almost a year and he just got his driver's license. Now my dad says I can't date him because he is such a reckless driver. I have to admit that dad is right about his driving but I still like the boy a lot. What shall I do?

Yours sincerely,
Peggy R.
Denver, Colo.

Dear Peggy:

Discuss your friend's driving with him. Explain how you and your father feel about it. You can nicely but firmly ask that he observe all the safety rules of driving. Remember, Peggy, you, as his date, are sitting in the most dangerous spot in a car in the event of an auto accident.

Marilyn Minton

♥ ♥ ♥

Dear Miss Minton

My boy friend is in his last year at college and he wants me to marry him now. He is in school on scholarships and though I have a job, it isn't enough to start housekeeping on. He says I don't really love him when I say we should wait until he is finished and has a job. Do you think I'm wrong?

Yours truly,
Evelyn A.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Evelyn:

You sound like a sensible, farsighted young lady. The more things you have in your favor when you marry, the healthier the marriage in all directions. If you must share in earning the family income for a time, it can be fun, and it won't be the burden that it would be if you were doing it alone.

Marilyn Minton

♥ ♥ ♥

Dear Miss Minton

I am on the basketball team at school and the coach insists that we maintain training rules. I am perfectly willing to go along, but my steady girl doesn't like it. We argue a lot because I can only go out on

Saturday nights. She says she'll date other guys if I don't break training for her. How can I reason with a girl like this? She told me to write to you about it.

Yours truly,
Edw. J.
Winnetka, Ill.

Dear Edward:

Training rules are plain enough to understand. If your girl doesn't agree, you might be wise to see other girls on your Saturday night dates. Talk it over with her, if she really cares for you, she will be willing to cooperate on this.

Marilyn Minton

♥ ♥ ♥

Dear Marilyn Minton:

I am fifteen years old and have been invited away for a college football week-end by a boy from our town. My folks say I am too young to go even though they have met the boy and think he is all right. Mother said I could write and ask which of us you think is right.

Sincerely,
V. V.
Oshkosh, Wis.

Dear V. V.:

If you are only fifteen and have already had such an invitation, you can be sure that there will be more of the same in the future. Your parents have a point, you have lots of time ahead of you to enjoy all the fun of college activities. For now you can join your own age group in their entertainments.

Marilyn Minton

IF YOU ARE TROUBLED BY A LOVE PROBLEM, WRITE TO MARILYN MINTON, NOTED PSYCHOLOGIST AND DOMESTIC RELATIONS COUNSELOR, 347 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY.

We will print as many of these letters as space permits. Because of the time involved, Marilyn Minton is unable to make any personal replies.

LOOK FOR THIS SEAL ON THE COVER
FOR THE BEST IN ROMANCE COMICS



Love Confessions
Girls In Love
Love Secrets

Heart Throbs
Wedding Bells

Love Letters
Brides Romances
Exotic Romances

HEART THROBS

WHEN SERGEANT BERT WELLS CAME INTO MY ARMY LIFE IT WAS MY FONDEST DREAM COME TRUE! THEN, SUDDENLY, MY HAPPINESS TURNED INTO A NIGHTMARE OF JEALOUSY AS ROMANCE LEFT ME STANDING BY THE ROADSIDE AND

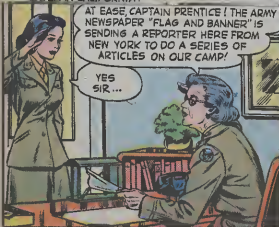
My Love Went AWOL



B-BERT... IN THE ARMS OF ANOTHER GIRL! WHY HAS HE DONE THIS TO ME? WHY HAS HE FORGOTTEN OUR LOVE?



IT ALL BEGAN THAT DAY WHEN I REPORTED TO MY SUPERIOR AT CAMP PETTICOAT, A NEW WAC TRAINING CENTER IN CALIFORNIA!



AT EASE, CAPTAIN PRENTICE! THE ARMY NEWSPAPER "FLAG AND BANNER" IS SENDING A REPORTER HERE FROM NEW YORK TO DO A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON OUR CAMP!

YES SIR...

AS OUR PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER I WANT YOU TO SEE THAT ALL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO HIM! YOU'LL BE ASSIGNED TO HIM UNTIL HE LEAVES!



YES, MAJOR! WHEN CAN I EXPECT THEIR REPRESENTATIVE?

HE'LL BE ARRIVING ON THE 4:30 PLANE! LET'S SEE... HIS NAME IS WELLS! SERGEANT BERT WELLS! THAT IS ALL, CAPTAIN!

B-BERT WELLS! I--I MUST BE DREAMING... IT CAN'T BE TRUE..

I'M GOING TO MEET HIM AT LAST-- WORK WITH HIM! IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE AFTER ALL THESE MONTHS OF WAITING-- WORSHIPPING A CELEBRITY'S PICTURE!

Yes... I'D FALLEN DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH A PHOTOGRAPH OF A MAN I'D NEVER MET! AND NOW... FOR THE FIRST TIME... I WAS FRIGHTENED!

I WONDER IF HE'LL FEEL AS I DO WHEN WE MEET? OH... I COULDN'T BEAR IT IF HE DOESN'T! I.. MUST BE BRAVE!

YOU MUST BE CAPTAIN PRENTICE! I'M SGT. WELLS! HOPE MY STAY HERE WON'T INCONVENIENCE YOU!

NOT AT ALL, SER-GEANT!

MY... HE'S EVERYTHING I IMAGINEO HE WAS FROM HIS PICTURES! AND SUCH A CUTE BOYISH SMILE!

THAT EVENING, I REALIZED I HAD A CHANCE WITH BERT AS WE CHECKED CAMP BLUEPRINTS IN MY OFFICE...

AND OVER HERE WE HAVE THE WAC GYM! IT'S FURNISHED WITH ALL THE LATEST EQUIPMENT! WONDERFUL, ISN'T IT?

YES... IT CERTAINLY IS!

OH, HOW I WANTED TO TELL... CONFESS ALL! BUT WHAT WOULD HE HAVE THOUGHT OF ME?

I.. I THINK PERHAPS YOU'D BETTER EAT, SERGEANT! YOU.. MUST BE HUNGRY AFTER YOUR LONG TRIP! I'LL SHOW YOU ABOUT CAMP THIS EVENING!

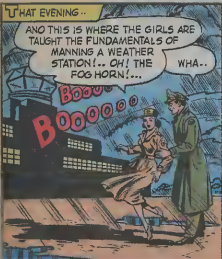
WHAT CAN I SAY, CAPTAIN! YOU HAVE THE RANK OVER ME!

SEE YOU LATER, CAPTAIN!

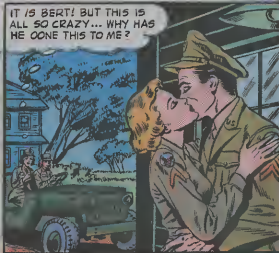
HE HAS FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ME-- I KNOW IT! WE WERE MEANT FOR EACH OTHER -- FROM THE START!



HEART THROBS



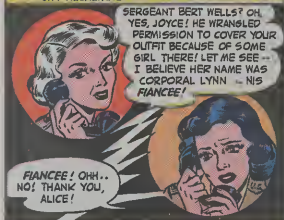
BUT SOON AFTER, AS I DROVE TO THE CANTEN, MY ROMANTIC DREAM TURNED INTO A NIGHTMARE!



I RUSHED HOME SEARCHING MY MIND FOR SOME REASONABLE EXPLANATION!



MY NOPES WERE SNATTERED AS I CONTACTED MAJOR ALICE BERRY A FRIEND OF MINE IN NEW YORK CITY RECRUITING

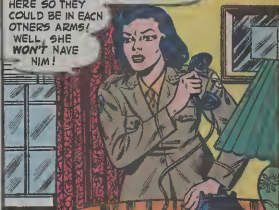


SERGEANT BERT WELLS? OH, YES, JOYCE! HE WRANGLERD PERMISSION TO COVER YOUR OUTFIT BECAUSE OF SOME GIRL THERE! LET ME SEE-- I BELIEVE HER NAME WAS CORPORAL LYNN-- HIS FIANCEE!

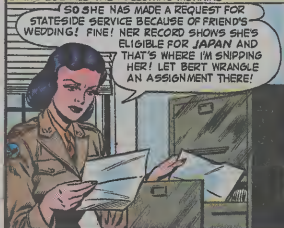
FIANCEE! OHH... NO! THANK YOU, ALICE!

MY INJURED PRIDE GAVE WAY TO ANGER!

THEY'VE MADE ME A ROMANTIC FOOL! USED ME TO EXTEND BERT'S STAY HERE SO THEY COULD BE IN EACH OTHERS ARMS! WELL, SHE WON'T HAVE NIM!

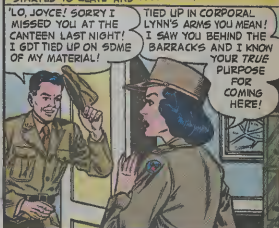


BURNING WITH HUMILIATION I PORED OVER CORPORAL LYNN'S 201 FILE THE FOLLOWING MORNING...



SO SHE HAS MADE A REQUEST FOR STATESIDE SERVICE BECAUSE OF FRIEND'S WEDDING! FINE! HER RECORD SHOWS SHE'S ELIGIBLE FOR JAPAN AND THAT'S WHERE I'M SNIPPING HER! LET BERT WRANGLE AN ASSIGNMENT THERE!

AFTER MAKING OUT THE TRANSFER PAPERS I STARTED TO LEAVE AND



'LO, JOYCE! SORRY I MISSED YOU AT THE CANTEEN LAST NIGHT! I GOT TIED UP ON SOME OF MY MATERIAL!

TIED UP IN CORPORAL LYNN'S ARMS YOU MEAN! I SAW YOU BEHIND THE BARRACKS AND I KNOW YOUR TRUE PURPOSE FOR COMING HERE!



WELL, IT WON'T WORK SERGEANT BERT WELLS! I WON'T BE THE PAWN IN YOUR ROMANCE!

BUT, JOYCE.. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! RUTH AND I ARE ...

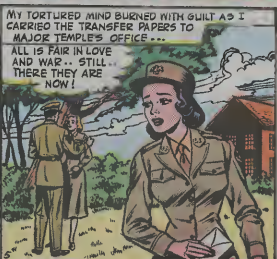
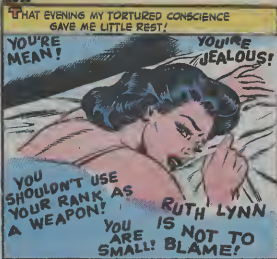
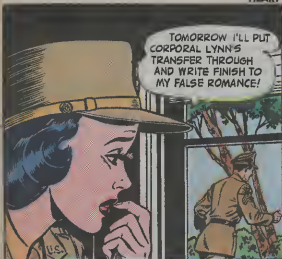
THROUGH! YOUR ROMANCE IS A WASH OUT, SERGEANT, BECAUSE THESE PAPERS WILL TRANSFER YOUR SWEETHEART RIGHT OUT OF THE STATES INTO JAPAN!

JOYCE! YOU WOULDN'T! YOU'RE NOT THAT KIND OF A PERSON! NOW COULD YOU BE?

YOU'LL SOON SEE, SERGEANT! I'LL NOT BE MADE A FOOL OF LIKE SOME SILLY SCHOOL GIRL!

AT LEAST I KNOW NOW WHAT YOU'RE REALLY LIKE! GOOD-BYE, JOYCE!





SUDDENLY I KNEW NO MATTER WHAT THE PRICE I COULD NOT GO THROUGH WITH MY TERRIBLE VENGEANCE

CORPORAL LYNN THERES BEEN A CHANGE OF SCHEDULE!

YES, CAPTAIN!



YOU'RE NOT SUITABLE FOR OVERSEAS DUTY! I'M CANCELLING YOUR TRANSFER PAPERS!

OH, THANK YOU, CAPTAIN PRENTICE, THANK YOU!

WHA...!



I FLED ACROSS THE PARADE GROUNDS FIGHTING BACK THE TEARS THAT WELLED FROM MY HEART!

SOB! LET THEM HAVE THEIR HAPPINESS.. SOMEWHERE, SOME-TIME I'LL FIND MINE ALSO! I-I'LL ASK FOR A THREE DAY PASS! PERHAPS A VISIT HOME WILL HELP ME FORGET!



MY HEART WAS AS HEAVY AS THE RAIN THAT POURED DOWN! AS I LEFT THE CAMP!

BERT!

BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, DARLING!



HAVEN'T YOU DONE ENOUGH TO ME, BERT? MUST YOU CONTINUE TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME AND MMMFFF!

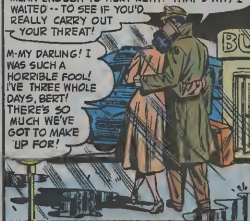


YOU'RE A GOOD CAPTAIN BUT A FOOLISH SWEETHEART, HONEY! RUTH AND I ARE NOT IN LOVE! I DID COME DELIBERATELY TO SEE HER - TO BREAK OFF OUR ENGAGEMENT! AND SHE IN THE MEANTIME, HAD WRITTEN ME A LETTER TO THE SAME EFFECT!



I COULDN'T KNOW I'D MEET YOU, JOYCE! AND I COULDN'T HAVE LOVED YOU IF YOU WERE REALLY MEAN ENOUGH TO HURT RUTH! THAT'S WHY I WAITED -- TO SEE IF YOU'D REALLY CARRY OUT YOUR THREAT!

M-MY DARLING! I WAS SUCH A HORRIBLE FOOL! I'VE THREE WHOLE DAYS, BERT! THERE'S SO MUCH WE'VE GOT TO MAKE UP FOR!



BERT AND I ARE MARRIED NOW! BUT I HOPE THE NEAR TRAGEDY OF MY HEAD-STRONG JEALOUSY WILL BE A LESSON TO OTHERS -- NEVER SEEK TO HURT THE ONE YOU LOVE.. NEVER!

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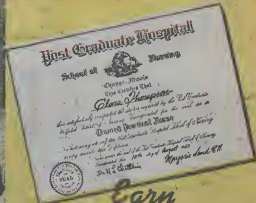
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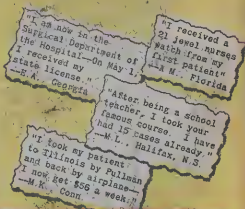
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MY LOVE WENT AWOL		6